

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
5:00 PM**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Cribbs, Chair  
Julia Baird  
Philip Beale  
Lageera Chatheechan  
Mary Jane Combe  
Andrew Panko  
Steven Rivers  
David Wylie  
Lennie Aarts  
John Metcalfe, ex-officio  
George McKibbon  
Naheed Qureshi  
Cindilee Ecker-Flagg (departed 5:24pm)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tracy Boese  
Lageera Chatheechan  
William Rapley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melanie Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO & Board  
Eric Baldin, Manager, Land Planning  
Natalie Green, Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change  
Geoffrey Verkade, Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies

---

**The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.**

**1. OPENING WELCOME**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Recommendation No. PAC-13-25

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: George McKibbon

**THAT** agenda for the Public Advisory Committee meeting held on November 25, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### 4.1. Public Advisory Committee meeting dated May 13, 2025.

Recommendation No. PAC-14-25

Moved by: George McKibbin

Seconded by: Mary Jane Combe

**THAT** the Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated May 13, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

#### 5.1. Correspondence RE: NPCA 2026 Meeting Schedule dated November 24, 2025

Recommendation No. PAC-15-2025

Moved by: Julia Baird

Seconded by: Andrew Panko

**THAT** the Correspondence RE: NPCA 2026 Meeting Schedule dated November 24, 2025 **BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

### 6. PRESENTATIONS

#### 6.1. Conservation Areas Management Planning Process

Manager, Land Planning, Eric Baldin provided a presentation regarding the initiative noted above. Discussion regarding process for revising land classifications and potential for 'dual classified' lands ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-16-25

Moved by: David Wylie

Seconded by: Lennie Aarts

**THAT** the presentation regarding the Conservation Areas Management Planning Process **BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

#### 6.2. Trees for All

Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies, Geoffrey Verkade, provided a

presentation on the Trees for All program.

Discussion regarding tracking mortality and success rates, operationalizing the seed collection Community of Practice, and engaging volunteers for public plantings (i.e. high school students, municipal partners where staff may receive paid days for volunteer work) ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-17-25

Moved by: Andrew Panko

Seconded by: Julia Baird

**THAT** the presentation regarding Trees for All **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

## **7. DELEGATIONS**

None.

## **8. CONSENT ITEMS**

**8.1. Report No. FA-56-25 RE: Proposed Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.**

Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change, Natalie Green, and Manager, Office of the CAO & Board, Melanie Davis, provided a brief overview of the report brought forward at the Full Authority Meeting on November 21, 2025, for the Public Advisory Committee's information.

Discussion regarding concerns related to governance structures and impacts to community connections and grassroots linkages ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-18-25

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: David Wylie

**THAT** Report No. FA-56-25 RE: Proposed Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities **BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION**.

**CARRIED**

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **11.1. Members' Updates**

- Member Combe noted that attendance at the International Plow Match in September reached 50,000 visitors, highest rate of attendance since COVID-19.
- Vice Chair Beale noted the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival was a major success and discussed the opportunity for a tour of the site for the Committee in 2026.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommendation No. PAC-19-25

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: Lennie Aarts

**THAT** the Public Advisory Committee meeting **ADJOURN** at 6:48 p.m.

**CARRIED**